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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

November 30, 2009

Connelly Baldwin, Hydrologist
Rocky Mountain Power
1407 West North Temple
Salt Lake City UT 84116

Re: Santa Clara River – Power Company Canals

Dear Connelly,

We appreciate your efforts over the past two years to submit the flow measurement data from Rocky Mountain Power's diversions from the Santa Clara River and along the canals to the company's hydro-electric plants. We also appreciate the company's recent efforts to improve the control structures on the canal system.

We have been reviewing this data and have included a CD with the results of our evaluation. We used the flume readings that you submitted to calculate actual flow amounts and then used this data to compute losses in the various reaches of the canals.

Based on our review of the data, the piped portion of the power generation system operates with minimal losses and appears to require minimal maintenance. We are concerned about the losses in the remainder of the company's canal system.

Although the company's right for hydro-electric generation is a non-consumptive right, the water right certificates recognize there would be certain seepage and evaporation losses associated with the project. However, the certificates state the facilities "must be maintained in such condition as will prevent an unreasonable loss of water".

On January 13, 1991, following numerous complaints from water users that the losses in the canal were excessive and after discussion with the power company, the State Engineer issued a Final Order on the operation and maintenance of the power company canals. The Order required that the losses through the company's canal conveyance system should not exceed 15%. Any losses above 15% would be considered excessive.

Our review of the data you have provided indicates that losses in 2008 were 49% of the total amount diverted and so far in 2009 losses have been 81% of the amount diverted.

The Santa Clara River is located in one of the driest areas of the state and the amount of water currently being lost through the company's canals is a waste of a resource that can be ill afforded.



Page 2

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We would like to meet with you to discuss this challenging situation and what might be done to reduce the losses to the levels indicated in the 1991 Order. Currently, I have the following openings in my schedule: the week of December 7th, the afternoons of December 14th, 17th, and 21st, December 22nd or the week of January 11th. Please let me know if any of these dates would be convenient for you.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me by phone at (801)538-7380 or by e-mail at LeeSim@utah.gov.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee H. Sim', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lee H. Sim, P.E.

Assistant State Engineer for Field Services